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2003-07-29a Pankow review1

The paper by Pankow et al. (2003) reports a new approach to determine the percent of un-protonated nicotine in the tobacco smoke particulate matter of selected commercial and reference cigarettes, which we have not had a chance to thoroughly review. Nevertheless, this information attempts to address one aspect of the complex chain of events of concern to several scientists that compounds like ammonia in cigarette smoke may increase the speed and/or amount of nicotine that is taken up by smokers and thereby making the smoke more addictive.

Clinical studies with smokers are needed to best address this concern. We are already planning such a study to answer whether ammonia increases the speed or amount of nicotine from smoking that reaches the blood circulation and the brain.

Draft – for discussion purposes

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